

Message

From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/28/2019 5:54:49 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
CC: Press [Press@epa.gov]; Hubbard, Joseph [Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Houston Chronicle--Ethylene oxide

thanks

From: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 12:05 PM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Joseph <Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Houston Chronicle--Ethylene oxide

Hi Jennah. I'll take this one.

On Aug 28, 2019, at 1:04 PM, Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov> wrote:

Do we have a statement on EtO we can share with this reporter?

Jennah
R6

From: Trevizo, Perla <Perla.Trevizo@chron.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 10:04 AM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ethylene oxide

Good morning,

From TCEQ: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/implementation/tox/dsd/proposed/jun19/eo.pdf>

From: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Trevizo, Perla <Perla.Trevizo@chron.com>
Cc: Hubbard, Joseph <Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Ethylene oxide

Hi Perla, what are these statements from?

Jennah

From: Trevizo, Perla <Perla.Trevizo@chron.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 6:37 PM
To: R6Press <R6Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Ethylene oxide

Hello,

I'm working on a story about TCEQ's proposal regarding ethylene oxide and the upcoming comment deadline. Has the EPA responded to the criticism by TCEQ and / or the American Chemistry Council regarding its assessment of ethylene oxide and the science behind it? If so, could you please let me know where I can find it? If it hasn't I would like to request an interview or comment to the following statements that have been made regarding the 2018 assessment:

EtO is produced endogenously, and an ambient air concentration of about 1.3 ppb would be required to increase the internal dose of EtO by 1 standard deviation. Therefore, ambient EtO concentrations significantly less than 1ppb (e.g U.S. EPA's acceptable air concentrations of 0.0001 - 0.01 ppb) would not be expected to produce biologically meaningful internal doses considering the range of normal endogenously-produced background eto levels.

Epa's estimates that ambient concentrations of eto greater than 0.01 ppb would produce unacceptable increased cancer risk of greater than 1 in 10,000. This estimated ambient eto concentration corresponds to an internal dose that is over 30 times lower than the 1st percentile of normal endogenous background levels (non-smokers), which is highly unlikely to be biologically meaningful and is inconsistent with the assessment of excess risk.

... the TCEQ found that USEPA's EtO inhalation URF is not adequately supported by scientific data and the TCEQ did not adopt it for this evaluation.

This is also from TCEQ: ... "the EPA over-estimated the cancer potency of ethylene oxide due to their use of an improperly validated, unconventional mathematical model to apply the findings from the highly-exposed occupational workers down to the low-level exposures experienced by the general public."

The American Chemistry Council has also been quoted as saying it believes the EPA overestimated the cancer risk, resulting in "unnecessary confusion and alarm within certain communities." In September 2018, the council petitioned the agency to change the risk value, saying its estimate for acceptable risk is in fact 19,000 times lower than the normal, naturally created levels of ethylene oxide in the human body.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. My deadline is Thursday evening or Friday morning (the latest). The story is scheduled to run this weekend.

Perla

Perla Trevizo

Environmental Affairs Reporter

O: 713-362-7464

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Perla.trevizo@chron.com

Twitter: @Perla_Trevizo

<image001.png>